

Iowa Department on Aging

Director Donna Harvey

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Iowa Department on Aging Asks Iowans to Recognize and Honor Older Iowans in Care Facilities And Celebrate October as Residents Rights Month

Iowa has over 846 long-term care facilities with over 52,000 individuals living in these homes

(Des Moines, IA) Today, Iowa Department on Aging Director Donna Harvey asked Iowans to recognize October as Residents Rights Month and honor Iowa's older citizens living in long-term care facilities.

Throughout the month of October, older Iowans, caregivers, families and friends will celebrate Residents Rights Month in honor of all older citizens living in long-term health care facilities.

Iowa's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program works to promote awareness of the rights of residents living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and residential care homes. The Program works to resolve concerns made by, or behalf of, the residents. Resident's rights, mandated by state and federal law, range from medical issues to matters of dignity and respect.

"Our older Iowans have enriched all of our lives beyond measure and it is up to all of us to recognize and support their rights as individuals and see that they are treated with the respect they deserve," Director Harvey stated.

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Jeanne Yordi commented, "Residents Rights Month is the perfect occasion to remind all Iowans that we share the same community and need to continue to advocate for the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable citizens."

For more information about the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program's services call toll-free 1-866-236-1430. To find the residents rights section of the Iowa Department on Aging website go to: <http://www.aging.iowa.gov/advocacy/ombudsman.html> .

The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

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